STRAIGHT **FACTS** FROM GEORGIA EQUALITY: **HATE CRIMES**

Committed to Equality for ALL Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Georgians

www.georgiaequality.org

GEORGIA EQUALITY

FACT: Georgia is just one of 5 states without a hate crimes law.

FACT: GBI Director Vernon Keenan has requested that the General Assembly pass hate crimes legislation. Without a hate crimes law on the books in Georgia, law enforcement agencies lack direction on how to address crimes committed on the basis of a perceived or actual characteristic. The International Association of Chiefs of Police and National Sheriffs Association have endorsed hate crimes legislation that includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

FACT: The United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Presbyterian Church USA are among the Christian denominations that have endorsed sexual orientation and gender identity inclusive hate crimes legislation. In addition, the American Jewish Congress, Congress of National Black Churches, the Unitarian Universalist Association and many other religious organizations support including those same categories.

FACT: Hate crimes are perpetrated against an individual(s) on the basis of perceived or actual characteristics. They are intended to threaten, harass or silence some or all members of that group. As a result, hate crimes often impact the entire group, family or community of the victim(s).

FACT: Hate crimes laws do not impact or take away from an individual's freedom of speech. Speech is not a hate crime. A crime must first be committed, and evidence submitted before the court of law to clearly show that the crime was committed against the victim on the basis of a perceived or actual characteristic before it can be deemed a hate crime.

FACT: Hate crimes laws protect everyone, not just historically underrepresented and discriminated groups of people. Because hate crimes laws establish protected classes and do not protect specific groups, majority populations are also protected from violent acts of crime based on their perceived or actual characteristics.

MAKE THE CASE FOR A HATE CRIMES LAW TO YOUR LAWMAKERS. **KNOWLEDGE + ACTION = FAIR MAJORITY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LOBBYING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS ON HATE CRIMES, PLEASE VISIT:
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Georgia Equality Sine Die

2008 POST-LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP EVENT

☐ Yes, I plan to attend
☐ No, I am unable.
Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of $_____

Name: _____ Partner/Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Credit/Debit Card Type: ☐ **American Express** ☐ **Visa** ☐ **MasterCard** ☐ **Discover**

Credit/Debit Card No: _____

Exp. Date: _____/_____/_____ **Security No:** _____

last back 3 digits Visa/MC/ Discover, front 4 digits AMEX

Name as it appears on card: _____

Georgia Equality is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit political advocacy organization serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender citizens and their allies. Contributions are not deductible for tax purposes.

Checks payable to Georgia Equality, Inc.
Include RSVP card in the enclosed envelope.

GEORGIA EQUALITY

Your stamp is a generous donation to Georgia Equality

GEORGIA EQUALITY
PO BOX 95425
ATLANTA, GA 30347-0425

Sine Die

2008 POST-LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP EVENT

What happened with the attempt to ban gay adoption?
Where do we stand on passing hate crimes legislation?
How was anti-bullying legislation advanced?
What is being done to expand rights for same-sex couples?

Get answers to these questions and more by attending our post-legislative wrap-up reception

Special Guests

former Atlanta City Council President
and *Georgia Equality Lobbyist*
CATHY WOOLARD
and
newly-appointed Executive Director
JEFF GRAHAM

Learn more about and celebrate the progress made to advance LGBT policy goals under the Gold Dome in 2008.

Monday, April 28th

7:00pm

Manuel's Tavern
602 North Highland Ave
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Please R.S.V.P. to 404.327.9898 or geinfo@georgiaequality.org

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the work of our house party host here, Georgia Equality board member **Michael Petty**. The LGBT community in Athens will be on top of its game in letting Senator Cowsert know that an inclusive hate crimes bill needs to move forward this session!

- Watch out Gainesville, Hall County, and northern Gwinnett County! "They're" there, "They're queer", and "They're" getting organized! A very big thanks to **Tabitha Bettis** and our very own operations director **Melinda Morgan** for organizing our house party in Flowery Branch!
- If you attended the HRC Dinner in Atlanta last year, you had the opportunity to hear from the courageous and proud parents of two gay children, **Bruce and Sue Nelson**, who are rallying LGBT persons and P-FLAG members in the Lawrenceville area to advance hate crimes legislation and prevent a possible ban on gay adoption! Thank you for being outstanding parents and participants in the civic process!
- There are gay people and a whole lot of allies in Senator Nancy Schafer's district...and they're are ready to spend more time educating the most anti-gay member of the Georgia General Assembly. Thanks to **Kim Bailey** (yes, she's my mother) and **Tracy Thompson** for organizing our house party the northeast Georgia mountains town of Hiawassee.

So, we're pumped up, right?! This is exciting stuff! What an incredible opportunity to impact positive change for our community across this state by organizing at the grassroots level! That's how we build a fair majority and make equality a reality in Georgia!

I'm preparing your House Party Toolbox as we speak. It should be in the mail to you by Monday.

BUT, while you're waiting for the Toolbox to arrive and next Thursday's conference call with party hosts to roll around, why not take this weekend to call your friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors, fellow civic/religious organization members, local P-FLAG chapter members, local college gay-straight alliance and sympathetic political organization leaders and invite them to attend your house party?!? The personal touch really goes a long way in boosting turnout for your event.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I am available to you all weekend on my cell phone: 404.630.3975. Have a great weekend! **Thank you.**

Kyle Bailey
Political Director
Georgia Equality
P.O. Box 95425
Atlanta, Georgia 30347-0425

M: 404.327.9898
F: 404.327.9897
C: 404.630.3975
E: kyle@georgiaequality.org

www.georgiaequality.org

Thank you for supporting Georgia Equality's **Campaign for a Fair Majority**.

GEORGIA EQUALITY CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT CARD

✓ FIRST COMMITMENT: Be A Sustainer

Please support Georgia Equality's Campaign for a Fair Majority as a **monthly sustainer**!

☐ $200 ☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ $35 Other: $_____

Name: _____ Partner/Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Credit/Debit Card Type: ☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Credit/Debit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____/_____/_____

Security Number: _____ (last three digits on back for Visa/MasterCard/Discover, four digits on front for AMEX)

Name as it appears on card: _____

I do not wish to support Georgia Equality as a monthly sustainer at this time, but please accept my one-time contribution of $_____ to build a fair majority.

✓ SECOND COMMITMENT: Take Action

Are you registered to vote? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I will volunteer with Georgia Equality (i.e. phone bank, computer data entry, stuff mailings, canvass, etc.)
☐ I will host a house party to raise critically important funds and mobilize my friends and neighbors to action
☐ I will participate in a lobbying visit with my legislators and/or local elected officials
☐ I will call my legislators and/or local elected officials
☐ I will write letters to my legislators and/or local elected officials

Who is your State Representative? _____ State Senator? _____

Do you have a personal or professional relationship with any state legislator? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, please tell us who, how you know them, and whether you would be willing to talk with them about LGBT issues:

_____

_____

Please indicate issue areas that are of particular interest to you:

☐ Hate Crimes ☐ Workplace Equality ☐ LGBT Aging Issues ☐ Religion and Faith
☐ Adoption ☐ Relationship Recognition ☐ HIV/AIDS ☐ Women's Health Issues
☐ Health Insurance Benefits ☐ LGBTQ Youth Issues ☐ Transgender Rights

What about your personal background and life experiences, profession/occupation, or extracurricular activities might be helpful when lobbying lawmakers about LGBT issues?

_____

_____

_____

To what civic, social, or professional organizations do you hold membership? Please list any leadership positions.

_____

_____

What technical expertise are you able and willing to offer (i.e. accounting or legal advice, website maintenance, etc.)?

_____

CAMPAIGN FOR A FAIR MAJORITY IS ABOUT SECURING YOUR FUTURE.

Please make checks payable to Georgia Equality, Inc. Contributions are not deductible for tax purposes.

GEORGIA EQUALITY PROJECT

FOUNDATION, INC.

November, 1998

Dear Friend:

You're invited to help make Georgia part of a national week-long campaign for equality in each of the 50 states. Several activists from Georgia have just returned from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change Conference. We have come back excited about a project sponsored by NGLTF and the Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations.

Equality Begins at Home is a national campaign to strengthen, unite, and promote equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities at the state level. During the week of March 21-27, 1999, communities in each state and territory across the country will engage in an unprecedented week of nationally coordinated actions designed to draw national attention to the critical need to organize effectively at the state level to fight the stepped up attacks from the right and to achieve equality.

The **Georgia Equality Project Foundation**, Georgia's statewide GLBT political advocacy organization, is our representative to the Federation. As such GEPF will be coordinating Equality Begins at Home in Georgia. The event gives us the opportunity to show the media, legislators, and all of Georgia the richness and diversity of our movement. Our planning process is designed to make that happen. **Local groups, affinity groups, and chapters of national groups will be critical to mobilizing the community and building our strength and visibility.**

A meeting to develop plans for Equality Begins at Home in Georgia will be held **Tuesday, December 15**, at the Atlanta Lambda Center, 828 West Peachtree Street, in Atlanta. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and end by 9:30 PM. The desire of everyone who has heard of Equality Begins at Home in Georgia is that every part of the larger GLBT community be an integral part of defining this exciting event. **No plans have yet been made, so get involved now to be sure your voice and the needs of your part of our diversity is heard and addressed.**

Individuals and groups are encouraged to meet before December 15 to discuss ideas for making Equality Begins at Home all it can be for your part of our community and state. Our hope is that specific parts of our community will have a chance to discuss the needs and resources they bring to this process, especially around issues of age, ethnicity, gender, geography, health, race, sexual expression, social interests, and youth.

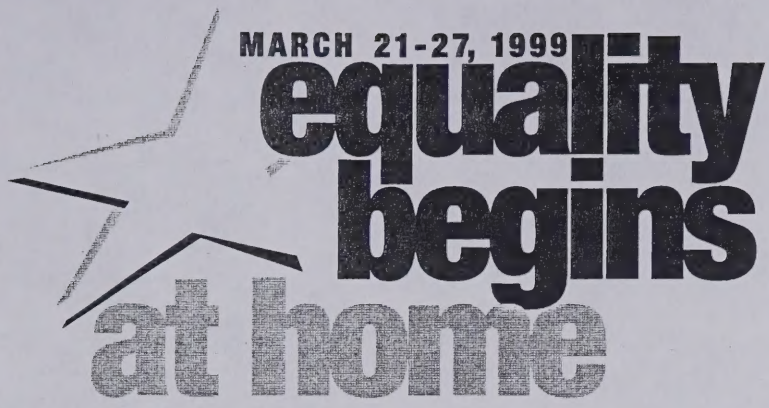
Please let us know whether or not you can attend by calling 404.872.3600. If you call, we will know not to pester you by phone! Questions about Equality Begins at Home can be answered by calling that number (GEPF's office) or those listed below.

Equality Begins at Home offers the best opportunity in 1999 to move the political part of our movement forward. Don't be left out! Let us hear from you today.

K. Lynn Cothren	Saralyn Chesnut	Joan Garner	Guy Giumento	Darlene Hudson	Larry Pellegrini
404.627.1766	404.524.4327	404.577.1877	404.212.8666	404.222.9404	404-284-1347

"Political momentum has shifted to the states. Civil rights, health care access, bias crimes, school safety, adoption, marriage, anti-gay rhetoric and initiatives are only some of the issues facing our community at the state level. Some issues, like marriage and adoption are decided only at the state level. Stronger statewide LGBT groups are necessary to face the challenges from the religious right, to move forward, and to make public officials, both state and national, more accountable to LGBT citizens and our allies." – Federation of Statewide GLBT Political Organizations

P.O. Box 78351
Atlanta, GA 30357-2351
ph 404-872-3600
fax 404-872-3602
emergency/media 888-619-8759
www.gep.org



A national campaign to strengthen and unite the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and promote equality at the state level.

The Plan

During the week of March 21-27, 1999, lesbian,gay, bisexual, and transgendered activist and our allies across the country will plan and participate in actions to promote equality and justice at the state level.

The Goal

Strengthen lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizing efforts in every state and territory.

Draw national attention to our efforts to pass hate crimes laws, civil rights laws, supportive family laws, and to fight anti-gay initiatives at the state level.

To unite across state lines through nationally coordinated actions and strategies.

Get Involved!

Contact your Equality Begins at Home state coordinator (listing attached) and get involved in the planning!

Encourage any national or local group that you are a part of to offer assistance to your local efforts.

EQUALITY BEGINS AT HOME
voice 212-633-9775 ▾ fax 212-627-4136
www.equalitybeginsathome.org
Paula Ettelbrick, National Coordinator ▾ pettelbrick@ngltf.org

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force ▾ Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations

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www.equalitybeginsathome.org
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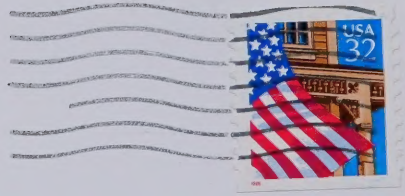
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force • Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations

GEORGIA EQUALITY PROJECT
FOUNDATION, INC.

ATLANTA GA 303
PM
25 NOV
1998



Zami
Ms. Mary Anne Adams
Box 2502
Decatur, GA 30031

P.O. Box 78351
Atlanta, GA 30357-2351

30031-2502

CAMPAIGN FOR A FAIR MAJORITY

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN – 9/07 TO 12/08

INTRODUCTION

Georgia's political landscape has changed dramatically in the ten years since Georgia Equality was founded; however, the potential for our community to advance LGBT policy issues has only strengthened with greater social awareness and acceptance. Georgia Equality has developed a bold, new strategic plan for grassroots political advocacy – Campaign for a Fair Majority – that is based on current political reality and enables us to build a bi-partisan fair majority in Georgia.

STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

Georgia Equality is working to build a fair majority in Georgia through electoral and legislative action at the state and local level. Carving out a bi-partisan fair majority in the state legislature and on local councils and commissions requires targeting unfair elected officials for defeat in primary and general elections, and intense lobbying to fight back anti-LGBT proposals and work for the passage of pro-LGBT legislation and local ordinances.

INTENSIVE LOBBYING

Georgia's legislature officially convenes the first quarter of the year; however, during the other months of the year committees are meeting, legislators are meeting constituents and participating on committees, attorneys are drafting legislation, and deals are being made. Successful lobbying requires a year-round operation based on extensive research – legislative interviews, voting records, personal and professional backgrounds, counting votes on any given issue going into session, developing strategies to move individual legislators, and ensuring accountability in relation to election activities.

STRATEGIC ELECTIONEERING

With a year-round lobbying operation, we can hold our elected officials accountable for their actions. Few general election races – outside of "open" seats – are competitive as a result of legislative redistricting; however, primary races are very competitive. A strategic election operation allows us to focus on state legislative and local races that are happening throughout the year.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Total 2007-2008 Budget (16 months) $500,000

An aggressive budget is needed to build a fair majority in the state legislature and on local councils and commissions. In order to reach our short-term and long-term strategic goals, we have designed a budget that requires a considerable financial commitment from every segment of the LGBT community.

FUNDRAISING

Perhaps the strongest element of the Campaign is our ability to raise funds from outside the LGBT community, as we are working to oust legislators who may also have poor voting records on issues important to our allies and other groups. However, the reach and strength of our strategic plan doesn't let the LGBT community off the hook. In order to raise $500,000 in 16 months to ensure our success, the LGBT community must double the support it has given Georgia Equality in its best fundraising years.

We are reaching out for your support because Georgia's LGBT community deserves nothing less than representation by a fair majority of elected officials.

Founded in 1995, Georgia Equality is the political advocacy voice of Georgia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender citizens and their allies. Please consider volunteering your time, energy, and talents and financial resources to support our struggle for equality.

Georgia Equality | PO Box 95425 | Atlanta, GA 30347 | 404.327.9898 | 404.327.9897 fax | geinfo@georgiaequality.org

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Welcome to my House Party for a Fair Majority!

Feb. 12th, 2008.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS